(c) steps being taken by Central and State Governments to make such girls of the State literate within a specified timeframe?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Any survey to find out exact number of girls who cannot attend formal education has not been conducted by the Government, in Gujarat. However, many steps for girls, particularly those belonging to the SCs/STs and other disadvantaged groups are being taken up by the Central and the State Governments.

- In order to enhance the access to primary education the norms for opening of primary schools, which is generally one kilometre walking distance from habitations of 300 population, has been relaxed in the case of SC/ST habitations in whose case the norm is to have a primary schools within one kilometre walking distance from habitation of 200 population.
- Priority to SC/ST concentration areas while implementing the scheme of Operation Blackboard.
- Opening Ashram Schools and educational complexes in low literacy pockets for development of female literacy in tribal areas.
- Provision of incentives such as scholarships, textbooks, mid-day meals and hostel facilities.
- Reservation of seats in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Novadaya Vidyalayas.
- Priority to SC/ST dominated habitations in opening of NFE and Adult Education Centres.
- The District Primary Education Programme (EPEP) has been launched in Dang, Panchmahal and Banaskantha district of Gujarat which are predominantly tribal districts.
- Preparation of primers in ST dialects.
- Free Girls' Education in all primary schools run by local authorities.
- Financial Assistance Scholarship to ST girls @ Rs. 100/- per year. Scholarship to most backward SC girls @ Rs. 500/- per annum (Class I — VII) and Rs. 240/- per annum (Class VIII to X).

Drop out of Tribal Students

383. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing drop out of tribal students from schools in different States, particularly the girls;

(b) if so, the State-wise position during last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to stop drop out of tribal students from schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Separate statistics in regard to drop out of tribal students from schools in different States for the last three years are not available.

(c) Several measures have been taken by the Central and State Governments to contain drop out of the tribal students. These include relaxation of norms for opening primary schools in tribal areas, establishment of Ashram schools for residential schooling of tribal children, providing alternative schooling through the non-formal stream, support to NGOs, teaching in local dialects, developing culturally sensitive educational material and teacher training.

Molestation incidents in JNU

384. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of molestation of students that occurred in Jawaharlal Nehru University in September-October, 1997;

(b) whether the root cause of such audacious and obscene acts of the students in this highly prestigious temple of learning is due to the flawed attitude of the University authorities;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(d) what exemplary punishment has been awarded to the unruly elements responsible for such shameful acts?